

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please add the following new claim 229:

229. (New) The method according to claim 126, wherein said stringent conditions include using a hybridization solution comprising 50% (w/v) formamide and washing in 5x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 55°C.

Please amend the following claims to read as follows:

115. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that contain a detectable polynucleotide comprising a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides fully complementary to either strand of Figure 3.

116 (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that contain a detectable polynucleotide comprising a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides fully complementary to either strand of Figure 62A.

117. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply human of biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that contain a detectable polynucleotide comprising a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides fully complementary to either strand of Figure 89.

118. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply human of biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise either (i) a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide that comprises a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides from the genome of a hepatitis C virus genome or the complement thereof, or (ii) antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids encoded by a hepatitis C virus genome.

119. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise either (i) a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides from either strand of at least one of the HCV cDNA inserts in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library deposited as ATCC No. 40394 or (ii) antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an HCV polypeptide sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acid encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in the lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.

120. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides found in either strand of Figure 89.

121. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides found in either strand of Figure 14.

122. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides from either strand of at least one of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) cDNA inserts in a lambda gt-11 cDNA library deposited as ATCC No. 40394.

123. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids found in Figure 90.

124. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids found in Figure 14.

125. (Thrice Amended) A method of selecting biological samples from a supply of human biological samples comprising selecting from said supply those samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with a hepatitis C virus (HCV) polypeptide sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acid encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in a lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.
